







The Family Circle.

Lost Convictions. BY PRESIDENT EDWARDS.

If you have the strivings of God's Spirit, God has met with you, led you to reflect upon your sins, made you sensible that you are in danger of hell, awakened your concern for your soul, and inclined you to seek salvation.

1. There is danger of this. Not all who are concerned for their souls, and who, by the strivings of God's Spirit, are seeking and striving for salvation, hold out to the end of the race, which divert and slip and turn back those who commenced well.

2. Consider if you lose your convictions, it will be no advantage to you that ever you had them, as to any furtherance of your salvation. Whatever terrors you have been under about damnation, to whatever reflections you have been brought concerning your sins, whatever strong desires you have had after deliverance, and whatever earnest prayers you have made all will be in vain.

3. You do not know that you will ever have such an opportunity again. God is now striving with you by His Spirit. If you should lose the strivings of His Spirit, it may be that God's Spirit would never return to you again. If you are under convictions, you have a precious opportunity, which if you knew the worth of it, you would esteem better than any temporal advantages.

4. Sometimes there happens some diverting occasion. Their minds are taken off for a short time: they are drawn into company. It may be they see something which revives a desire of worldly enjoyments and entertainments, or they are engaged in some business which diverts their minds. They become less strict in attending private duties; and carelessness and stupidity by degrees steal upon them, till they wholly lose their convictions.

It is very comfortable to praying people, to know that their prayers are heard, and those mercies are doubly sweet that are given in answer to prayer.

portunity of securing eternal salvation if they did but know it and had hearts for it.

If the Spirit of God is now striving with you, it may be it is your only time, and it may be it is your time. Be wise therefore, and understand the things which belong to your peace before they are hid from your eyes.

4. If you lose your convictions, and return again to a way of allowed sinning, there will be less probability of your salvation than there was before you had any convictions.

The ill to which they are subject who lose their convictions. Their convictions are not only a means of no good to them, but they turn to much ill. It would have been better for them that they had never had them, for they are now farther from Salvation than they were before.

Yes, there is no one thing whatsoever which has so great a tendency to it. Man's heart is hardened by losing convictions, as iron is hardened by being heated and cooled. If you are awakened, and afterwards lose your convictions, it will be a harder thing to awaken you again.

Persons falling into sin is very often the occasion of their losing their convictions. Some temptation prevails over them; they yield to some sinful appetite; they indulge in strife, or malice, or revenge, and thus provoke God to anger, and drive away the Holy Spirit.

3. Some change in their circumstances takes off their minds from the concerns of their souls. They are taken up with new pleasures and enjoyments, or with new cares and business in which they are involved. It may be they grow richer. They prosper in the world, and their worldly good things crowd in and take possession of their minds; cares increase upon them, and the soul is neglected and left to perish.

Evangelical Tract Society.

There is no love without zeal, as there can be no heat without fire.

Be a Christian.

The best principles that can be adopted, are christian principles; the best love that can "constrain us" to useful labor, is christian love; the best hope that can inspire us under the greatest discouragements, is christian hope; the best faith that can be cherished by the human heart, is christian faith.

In your heart be a christian. Cherish there the humble trust and living hope of a child of God. Guard its fires, sanctify its impulses, watch its motions, examine its convictions, and let the whole heart be consecrated to Christ.

In your business, be a christian. Let worldly people follow worldly maxims--follow thou the honest precepts of Christ. Beware of sinful speculations and extortion. Beware of violating the temper, spirit and law of Christ in your business dealings.

In your example, be a christian. Your profession separates you from the world, and calls the attention of others to the fact that you have announced yourself a child of God. Beware of the ways of sin; they are disguised with flowers, but lead to death.

In benevolence, be a christian. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." Show yourself charitable. Make the Church feel your worth in every good enterprise. Make the widow and orphan bless you. Seek for opportunities of doing good.

In your plans and work, be a christian. Whatever others may think or do, think thou for God's glory, and let all thy works praise him.

And especially in your family, be a christian. Let your children and servants feel the hallowing grace of your christian character. Your influence at home ought to be as dew on the tender plants that grow up around you, and by your piety they ought to be inspired to desire Christ. Make religion attractive by your cheerful spirituality.

Everywhere, at home, abroad, and whether your duties are civil or military, under all circumstances be a christian. God is with you--his grace is sufficient, and, whatever may be the obstacles in the way, through Christ you can overcome them all and be "more than conqueror."

Sin Makes us Afraid. Why was Adam afraid of the voice of God in the garden? It was not a strange voice--it was a voice he had always before loved; but he now fled at the sound and hid himself among the garden trees.

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A child was one day playing alone in a drawing-room full of beautiful ornaments. He had often been told not to touch anything there as they were of great value, and many of them were made of rare glass or china, and cost much money.

"Child, your brother still lives," said the old man solemnly. She looked eagerly in his face.

"I have not seen him," replied the stranger, "but I know that he lives. --not here in this world again."

miserly of concealment became so great that one day he told his aunt all about it and the words she spoke to him then will never be forgotten. He learned from a week's remorse more of the nature of sin than in his whole life before.

No Gloom at Home. Above all things, there should be no gloom in the home. The shadows of dark discontent as wasting fretfulness should never cross the threshold, throwing their large black shapes like funeral palls, over the happy young spirits there.

But the door is opened, the overcoat thrown hastily off. A sweet voice falls on his ear, and the tones are so soft and glad that hope, like a winged angel flies right into his bosom and nestles against his heart.

The latch is lifted and the smiling face of his wife gives an earnest welcome. The shining hair is smoothed over her fair brow; indeed, she stole a little quizzical glance at the mirror hanging in its narrow frame, just to see if she looked neat and pretty before she came out.

A home where gloom is banished, presided over by one who learned to rule herself and her household. Christianity! oh! he is thrice consoled for all his trials. He can not be unhappy; that sweetest, best, dearest solace is his--a cheerful home--do you wonder that the man is strengthened anew for to-morrow's cares?

The Crown of Tears. The last rays of the setting sun rested, crown-like, on the tops of the forest trees, leaving in the deepening shadows of twilight a little child who sat weeping by the wayside.

"Child why do you weep?" "Because," said the child, her tears flowing afresh, "my little brother is dead."

"And should you weep at death?" asked the stranger. "Do you look beneath the brown earth only for your little brother? Child, he is not there."

"Have you seen him? Oh! let me run and tell my mother." "I have not seen him," replied the stranger, "but I know that he lives. --not here in this world again."

where weeping is unknown, where sorrow and death never enter--and yet death is the shining portal to that land!" The little girl looked wonderingly at him.

"Yes, my child," was the answer; "and there you will find the tears you have wept here transformed into a crown of light and life. See, even now thy work has begun."

She looked as indicated by his hand, and lo! her roses, brightened and refreshed by her many falling tears, smiled up into her face.

"Don't stay long." There is much of truth as well as beauty in the following. "Don't stay long, husband," said a young wife tenderly one evening, as her husband was preparing to go out.

"Don't stay long, husband," and I fancied I saw the loving, gentle wife sitting alone, anxiously counting the moments of her husband's absence, every few moments running to the door to see if he was in sight, and finding that he was not, I thought I could see her exclaiming in disappointed tones, "Not yet."

"Don't stay long, husband," and I have thought I could see the young wife rocking nervously in the great arm chair, and weep as though her heart would break, as her thoughtless "lord and master" prolonged his stay to a wearisome length of time.

O, you that have wives to say, "Don't stay long," when you go forth, think of her kindly when you are mingling in the busy hive of life, and try just a little to make their homes and hearts happy, for they are gems too seldom replaced. You can not find amid the pleasures of the world the peace and joy that a quiet home blessed with such a woman's presence, will afford.

CHRISTIAN INDUSTRY. The Emperor Vespasian, when reproved by the physician for his labor in despatching important affairs of State, during his last illness, replied, "An Emperor should die standing." This noble saying applies with far greater force to the christian. His diligence is demanded by things pertaining not to an earthly, but an eternal kingdom--things compared with which all revenues of this life are poverty and destitution--things momentous beyond the issues and incidents of every war that men have waged with each other--things by the side of which the whole history of time dwindles into nothingness. Surely, above the rest of his race, should he work to the last--work even while dying--or, as Vespasian expressed the same idea, "die standing."

But if to die standing should be the ambition and attainment of the christian, what shall we say of ourselves--we who stand not even while we live--who live lying down? Shall we not doubt whether we really live--live the new life?

A WORD TO "LITTLE GIRLS." Who is lovely? Is it the little girl who drops sweet words, kind words and pleasant smiles as she passes along--who has a kind word of sympathy for every little girl or boy she meets in trouble and a kind hand to help her companion out of difficulty? who never scowls, never contends, never teases her mates, nor seeks in any other way to diminish but always to increase their happiness? Would it please you to pick up a string of pearls, drops of gold, diamonds and precious stones as you pass along the streets? but these are the true pearls and precious stones, as you pass along the streets? but these are the true pearls and precious stones that can never be lost. Take the hand of the friendless; smile on the sad and dejected; sympathize with those in trouble; strive everywhere to diffuse around you sunshine and joy.

DIVINE PROTECTION. Let Sodom be on a flame, not a hair of Lot's head shall be singed. One fault can never justify the commission of another.

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THE CONFEDERATE BAPTIST. THE undersigned hereby propose to publish, in the city of Columbia, S. C. a weekly religious paper, to be called "THE CONFEDERATE BAPTIST."

PROSPECTUS. THE publication of the "SENTINEL" newspaper, which has been suspended since the first of January, 1862, by the enemy, will shortly be resumed in the city of Richmond, and on an enlarged basis.